

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVY REGION MID-ATLANTIC PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

1510 GILBERT STREET
NORFOLK, VA 23511-2737
TEL: (757) 322-2853
FAX: (757) 445-1953



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NAVY REGIONAL FIRE & RESCUE RECEIVES ACCREDITATION

Norfolk, VA (CNRMA) –Navy Regional Fire Rescue Hampton Roads received accreditation from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International Feb. 18 in Orlando, Fla.

Navy Region Mid-Atlantic's fire department is the first regional Navy fire department, and the largest organization in the Defense Department to earn accreditation. Navy Regional Fire Rescue Hampton Roads is one of only 9 Department of Defense fire departments to achieve accredited status.

Mandated by Defense Department instruction requiring all of its fire departments worldwide to achieve accreditation, the local fire department earned the distinction after an exhaustive two-year process, a year ahead of schedule.

The process required each of the department's 407 firefighters to participate in an extensive self-assessment, during which every building, pier, aircraft, ship, etc., on each Navy installation in Hampton Roads had to be studied to determine the amount of manning, equipment, and water it would take to combat a fire if it occurred there. The self-assessment process assists fire service professionals in continually improving the quality and performance of their organizations by asking critical questions to determine if the programs and services within the organizations are efficient and effective in meeting the needs of their communities. The model helps the agencies become more goal-oriented, forward-looking, well organized and provides a proven methodology to continually evaluate and improve their services.

Navy Regional Fire Rescue Hampton Roads was established in December of 1998 by consolidating eight separate fire departments from 11 naval installations.

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MEDIA NOTE: Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Commander, Rear Adm. Stephen Turcotte, will be joined by Public Safety Program Manager Capt. Shawn Morissey, Fire Chief James P. Meagher, and Asst. Fire Chief Mark Chaney March 4 at 2 p.m. to answer questions about how this process enhances fire safety on Hampton Roads naval installations. Media desiring interviews, photo/b-roll opportunities regarding this release may contact the Navy's Mid-Atlantic Public Affairs Office at 322-2853.